



Preparatory School for Boys and Girls

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## Newsletter: August 2020 (Half-term, Term 3) From the Principal's desk

With the stop-start nature of schooling over the last few months due to Covid-19 and the landfill site fire, it is hard to distinguish between a half-term break and a closure. But both are essential and allow our hard-working teachers the chance to recharge their batteries - most of them have become Energizer Bunnies and are constantly on the move. We also know that many of the staff are taking these small breaks to develop material for the next stage of schooling and upskilling themselves to deal with whatever is thrown at us next. I cannot stress enough how lucky we are as a school to have such dedicated, caring staff who have gone the extra 100 miles during this time. I believe that they should be arriving at school each day dressed in their superhero outfits. Most of them probably have them on under their clothing.



A special thank you to our management team who has had so many twists and turns, has always been up for the challenge and has been a wonderful pillar of support - no matter what time of day or night.

We always knew that getting through this was going to take a team effort and we must commend you. Thank you to the parents, for your wonderful support and loyalty to Epworth. Thank you for understanding the very difficult circumstances under which we are all operating at the moment. Your kind words and emails have gone a long way in keeping our teachers and staff motivated each day to face the next set of obstacles. I wish we could truly convey to parents how those positive comments and messages uplift all staff at Epworth, from the estates staff to the heads of the schools.

As things have changed, so have we. This will be the first time that Epworth Preparatory School will be emailing reports to all parents. The Primary School's reports will go out at the start of half-term and the Pre-Primary ones will be going out at the end of August. Please note that these reports have been adapted to suit the circumstances affecting schools at the moment. We certainly believe that electronic reports will be the way to go as we move forward. So, we will continue to develop them in preparation for the end-of-year reports. We are hoping to launch an app that will assist parents for the end of the year.

Unfortunately, due to the restrictions placed on us by the Department of Basic Education, we will not be able to hold our annual Sports Day on the 15 August. Sport is still prohibited in schools until further notice; we hope this might change once we drop to Alert Level 2. We understand that many children are chomping at the bit to get going with some sort of sport activity. We encourage parents to develop a fitness regime with your children that will help them maintain a healthy, fit lifestyle. This is an excellent opportunity to teach them to ride bicycles, develop their sporting skills in the garden or just go for a walk/run with mom or dad. Moms and dads, it is your time to shine. Bring out those old school sporting skills and show your children how to bowl, dribble a ball, shoot a goal and most importantly, how to be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.

Regulations have meant that we have had to cancel several events but, as a school, we will continue to look for ways to allow all children the opportunity to express themselves in the many diverse activities they enjoy. So, keep watching this space for more exciting news.

On behalf of the staff at Epworth, I would like to wish all families a happy and peaceful mid-term break. Stay safe.

Faith Compassion Courage  
Reynard White



## Mandela Day

### #ItStartsWithMe

As a school, all the pupils took at least 67 minutes out of their day to take time to honour each other. This was a task created by the Bhambayi Project on how we can reflect on being the change.

Some of the Pre-Primary pupils created beautiful rainbows in the parking area while they learnt about how they can honour the different people in their lives.

Many of the Primary School grades selected to write letters to honour people within either their families, or in the Epworth community.



## Epworth celebrates 122nd Birthday

The school started their birthday celebrations with a special prayer by the School Chaplain, Mrs Schultz.

The Prep School staff, who were once pupils at Epworth, presented a special Assembly for the pupils at which they told stories of what Epworth used to be like in 'their day'.

During their teatime, the whole school (pupils and staff) enjoyed a delicious red, blue and white donough with their tea.

Many of the pupils from the Pre-Primary and High School also had great fun while dancing to the worldwide dance challenge, Jerusalema.



## Staff engage in racial literacy workshop

At the beginning of the term, all the staff participated in an online staff development focused on anti-racist training and education. It was run by Lovelyn Nwadeyi, a founder and director of L & N Associates, a consultancy dedicated to seeing social justice normalised and embedded in business, academic and religious spaces. It was an extremely valuable exercise and provided staff with a way of interrogating their racialised identities in order to understand what race is, why it is and how it is used to reproduce inequality and oppression.



## Epworth supports Love Pietermaritzburg



Epworth says “enough is enough” to landfill site fires. During the recent fires at the city’s landfill site, which forced the school to close for four days, Epworth stood behind Love Pietermaritzburg in saying “#enoughisenough”. We joined other city ratepayers at a protest on Hesketh Drive, condemning the municipality’s lack of action and scant regard for the health and wellbeing of its residents. Epworth also participated in a meeting with the Pietermaritzburg and Midlands Chamber of Business to devise a solution to compel the municipality to address the landfill site. If you would like to add your voice to a petition advocating the closure of the site, please click here: [Support #lovepmb](#)

## Our weekly Chapel Services in the Prep School



[Click here to view the Grade R pupils during one of their weekly Chapel Services.](#)

Each Grade R to 7 class loves their weekly ‘Chapel’ in their classrooms, with Mrs Schultz. This special time is where they connect in so many lovely ways. “I have loved the opportunity to connect with the children. Meeting in their classrooms has also allowed for a more interactive Chapel time. We continue to look at ‘Character Strengths’ – and this is proving to be a very helpful theme in the challenging times we find ourselves. Please know that I continue to hold all our Epworth families in my prayers – especially those affected (directly and indirectly) by Covid-19.



## Learning is fun in the Pre-Primary

What better way is there to learn the letter 'P'?  
The Pre-Primary pupils (and staff) loved coming to school  
in their pajamas and eating pancakes.



The boys and girls in the Pre-Primary love learning while playing '6 Bricks'.

This is a LEGO Foundation tool to introduce learning through play.

The different activities that the pupils do with their 6 Bricks teach them:

Literacy, numeracy, perceptual, physical and social-emotional skills.



## Welcome to new Prep School staff

We would like to officially welcome Ms Symone Rungasamy to our permanent teaching staff as a replacement for Mr Dana Drimml in Grade 4. We wish her a long and happy stay at Epworth and are sure she will be a positive addition to our family.



## Grade 1s have some special reading time with their Grade 7 Mentor





# Our daily lives at Epworth Prep





## Beautiful Rainforest Art



The Grade 6s have been studying the environment and learning about rainforests. They observed different plants and animals found in rainforests and created their own



rainforest art using pastels



## Grade 5 pupils create the most amazing puppet shows



Grade 5s have been busy presenting their Folktale Puppet Shows in Drama.

They were tasked with choosing a folktale and created the puppets and scenery during lockdown.

They produced some wonderfully creative and inventive puppet shows. From toilet roll tube puppets to

folded puppet faces, recycled cardboard box stages – one with actual water for an ocean scene, and string puppets made from bottle lids and string, the pupils at Epworth have not 'masked' their creative skills!

